

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-29 : (Canceled)

Claim 30 : (New) A method of enabling marking of objects, comprising the steps of:

a) manufacturing, at a manufacturing site, stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns;

b) sending the stencils from the manufacturing site to marking sites at which marking of the objects is to be performed;

c) applying the stencils on the objects to be marked at the marking sites; and

d) marking the objects with the marking patterns of the stencils applied to the objects at each marking site.

Claim 31 : (New) The method of claim 30; and the step of filling the cutouts with a fusible material, and wherein the marking step includes heating the fusible material at each marking site to a temperature sufficient to melt the fusible material.

Claim 32 : (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the fusible material is one of a metal material, a metal oxide material, a ceramic material, and an alloy of said materials.

Claim 33 : (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the applying step includes the step of adhering the stencils in direct contact with the objects to be marked.

Claim 34 : (New) The method of claim 31; and the step of covering the cutouts filled with the fusible material with a cover layer.

Claim 35 : (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the cutouts are sequential numbers.

Claim 36 : (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the cutouts are a logo.

Claim 37 : (New) A method of enabling marking of gemstones, comprising the steps of:

- a) manufacturing, at a manufacturing site, stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns;
- b) sending the stencils from the manufacturing site to marking sites at which marking of the gemstones is to be performed;
- c) applying the stencils on the gemstones to be marked at the marking sites; and
- d) marking the gemstones with the marking patterns of the stencils applied to the gemstones at each marking site.